

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3924

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1621

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJ: VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST OF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE AND PARTY

REF: (A) SECDEF 022230Z MARCH 76 (B) DAO JIDDA 031306Z MAR 76

1. AS STATED REF B WE WELCOME THE VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA
OF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ISA) JORDAN.
BEFORE PROCEEDING TO OBTAIN SAUDI CONCURRENCE IN THE
VISIT, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CLARIFICATION OF
WHETHER CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO USING THE VISIT
AS AN OCCASION FOR THE HOLDING OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SAUDI-
US JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION.

2. WE NOTE FROM REF A THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF STATE DEPT
REPRESENTATIVES, THE COMPOSITION OF THE JORDAN
PARTY IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THEN ASD/ISA ELLSWORTH
AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING. WE SUSPECT
THAT THIS SIMILARITY WILL NOT ESCAPE THE SAG.

3. UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY WE WOULD HAVE HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT
THE WISDOM OF PROPOSING TO THE SAG THE HOLDING OF A
SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING; TOO MANY UNSETTLED MATTERS MIGHT
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HAVE BECLOUDED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING. WITH THE

RESOLUTION OF MOST PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE "URGENT REQUIREMENTS LIST" FOLLOWING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S VISIT AND THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE HAWK V LOA, THE ATMOSPHERE FOR HOLDING A SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING IS PROBABLY AS GOOD NOW AS IT IS LIKELY TO BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AND WHILE WE DO NOT SPECIFICALLY RECOMMEND THE HOLDING OF A COMISSION MEETING, WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE SECOND MEETING COULD NOW BE CONSIDERED OVERDUE.

4. IF THE DEPT AND DOD SHOULD DECIDE TO USE THE VISIT OF ASD/ISA JORDAN AS THE OCCASION FOR HOLDING A COMMISSION MEETING, OUR APPROACH TO SCHEDULING THE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN FOR A "ROUTINE" VISIT. WE WOULD, FOR INSTANCE, HAVE TO CONSULT FULLY WITH MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN ON THE TIMING. HE WOULD PROBABLY WANT A TIME WHEN BOTH HE AND VICE MINDEF TURKI (THE SAUDI CHAIRMAN) WOULD BE AVAILABLE. THE SAUDI SIDE MIGHT ALSO WANT MORE TIME FOR PREPARATION THAN THE PRESENT PROPOSED DATES WOULD ALLOW. IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE THAT PRINCE SULTAN IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A MAJOR VISIT TO THE YAR IN MID MARCH. THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS VISIT MAY WELL OCCUPY THE ATTENTIONS OF A GOOD PART OF HIS SENIOR STAFF FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. THAT THE DEPT INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER IT WISHES TO USE THE VISIT OF ASD/ISA JORDAN FOR THE HOLDING OF A JOINT SECURITY COMMISSION MEETING. WE WILL TAKE NO FORMAL ACTION WITH THE SAG TOWARD SCHEDULING THE PRESENTLY PROPOSED VISIT UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE. WHEN VISIT DATES HAVE BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED THE EMBASSY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CHUSMTM WILL SUBMIT A LIST OF SUBJECTS THAT THE SAUDI SIDE IS LIKELY TO RAISE AND QUESTIONS TO WHICH THEY WILL EXPECT ANSWERS AS WELL AS SUBJECTS THE US SIDE SHOULD RAISE WITH THE SAG.
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